

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 001022

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/27/2010

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [KDEM](#) [KPAL](#) [FI](#) [TU](#) [EUN](#) [EU](#) [GAERC](#)

SUBJECT: FINLAND: TURKEY, IRAN AND CROATIA TO DOMINATE  
OCTOBER GAERC

REF: STATE 153187

Classified By: Polchief Gregory Thome, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) SUMMARY: Finland believes discussions of Turkey and Iran are likely to dominate the Oct. 3 GAERC meetings. The GOF is optimistic about an Oct. 3 start date for EU accession talks with Turkey, but fears that some member states may try to push prematurely for a statement regarding Croatia's start date. The EU fully shares the U.S. goal of keeping nuclear weapons out of Iran; however, not all EU member states agree on how to achieve this goal and the GOF hopes the UK, France and Germany will produce a strong joint statement that creates unity within the EU on Iran policy. End Summary.

12. (C) PolChief met with GOF EU Correspondent Jarno Syrjala Sept. 27 to discuss reftel talking points and Finland's priorities for the October 3 EU foreign ministers' meeting (GAERC) in Luxembourg. Syrjala noted that discussions of Iran, Turkey, and possibly Croatia are likely to dominate GAERC discussions. On Turkey, Finland continues strongly to support an Oct. 3 start date for EU accession talks. Various members will continue to horse trade and float additional suggestions through the Sept. 29 COREPER meetings and likely right up until the ministers' meeting on Oct. 3, Syrjala predicted. Nevertheless, the GOF is confident that "a ceremony will be held."

13. (C) Syrjala expressed some concern that certain member states also may seek to "link" the start of talks with Turkey to a statement in favor of an earlier start date for Croatia. The GOF continues to believe that Croatia must produce hard evidence that it is in full cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) as a precondition for the start of EU talks with Croatia. The best such evidence, Syrjala said, would be to hand over Gotovina. However, Austria and some other member states suggested that "full cooperation" could perhaps be more loosely defined. Syrjala emphasized that the GOF does not support softer definitions; remains convinced that the pressure currently being put on Croatia is working; and will not support a "premature" statement on Croatia.

14. (C) On Iran, the EU fully shares the U.S. goal of keeping nuclear weapons out of that country, Syrjala said; the problem is that not all EU members currently agree on how to get there. Iran dominated large portions of the GYMNICH agenda in September, he added, but the discussions were inconclusive and there is not much clarity as to how unified the EU is internally. The GOF is hopeful that the UK, France and Germany will produce a strong joint statement that charts a way forward and builds EU unity on Iran policy.

MACK